

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KABUL 05521 311135Z

43 41

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-05 DRC-01 RSC-01 STR-04 IO-03

TRSE-00 /024 W

----- 124458

R 311100Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9370

UNCLAS KABUL 5521

FOLLOWING MSG BEING RETRANSMITTED DUE TO CLAIM OF NON-RECEIPT
IN ONE OF DEPARTMENTAL BUREAUS:

QUOTE

R 291030Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHDC/USDOC WASHDC

INFO: SECSTATE WASHDC 8918

UNCLAS KABUL 4713

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AF

SUBJ: GOA SEEKS US DISTRIBUTOR FOR PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS
STONES

1. FARID RAFIQ, PRESIDENT OF EXPORT PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE, GOA, ASKED POST ECONOFF TO ASSIST GOA IN FINDING
A DISTRIBUTOR/SALES AGENT IN THE US FGK THREE TYPES OF STONES-
LAPIS LAZULI, KUNZITE AND RUBIES. GOA'S PLAN IS TO SEND UNCUT
STONES TO US AGENT FOR CUTTING AND POLISHING AND SUBSEQUENT
SALE TO RETAILERS. GOA WOULD LIKE TO "TEST MARKET" IN NEW YORK
AREA BUT WILL CONSIDER OTHER AREAS.

2. BACKGROUND: AFGHANISTAN HAS TEN GRADES OF LAPIS LAZULI
WITH GREATEST SUPPLY IN GRADES 5 TO 10; WEST GERMANY HAS BEEN
BIGGEST IMPORTER OF AFGHAN LAPIS LAZULI (MOST OF IT SMUGGLED
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OUT OF AFGHANISTAN) PURCHASING 7,092 KG. IN 1972 FOR D.M. 1.9

MILLION. KUNZITE EXISTS IN ALL FOUR GRADES AND RUBIES IN THREE GRADES. ALL THREE STONES ARE MINED AND CONTROLLED BY STATE MONOPOLIES BUT SMUGGLING HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD. GOA NOW PLANNING TO COMBAT SMUGGLING WITH ADVICE OF I.T.C. UNCTAD/GATT.

3. REQUEST DOC WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK OFFICES CONTACT POSSIBLE IMPORTERS OF THESE THREE STONES. GOA WILL SEND SAMPLES OF ALL GRADES. LATER GOA WOULD WANT IMPORTER VISIT AFGHANISTAN WITH LONG RANGE PLAN OF SETTING UP INITIAL CUTTING PROCESS HERE.

4. POTENTIAL IMPORTERS CABLE: MR. FARID RAFIQ, MINCOMMERCE, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.
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